

REMARKS

In response to the Patent Office Action of January 26, 2005, the Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration. To continue the prosecution of this application, the Applicant files herewith an RCE with the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the Examiner should now find all claims in condition for allowance. In the Patent Office Letter it is noted that the Examiner has already indicated allowable subject matter in claims 3-7, 8, 14-18, 19 and 24. In order to afford the Applicant a full scope of claim coverage, the Applicant also adds hereto claims 25-27.

In the Patent Office Letter the Examiner has set forth a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 relying upon four different references to Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,241,511); to Jon (U.S. Patent No. 6,663,383); to Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,722,877); and to Puig-Gross (U.S. Patent No. 6,739,867). All of these references have been thoroughly reviewed by the Applicant and amendments have now been made in the claims that are believed to place all claims in condition for allowance and clearly patentably distinguishable over these references.

First, as indicated previously, the Examiner has found allowable subject matter in claims 3-7, 8, 14-18, 19 and 24. By the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claim 3 which is the same as the subject matter in claim 8, has now been added into claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled from the application. By incorporating this subject matter into claim 1, claim 1 should now be found in allowable condition.

A similar amendment has also been made in claim 12. The subject matter of claim 14, which is the same as the subject matter of claim 19, has been added into claim 12. This claim should thus be found in condition for allowance. Claim 24 has also been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12 into claim 24. This should thus place claim 24 in allowable condition.

Claim 10 has also been amended into independent form. The Applicant believes that the recitations in claim 10 distinguish over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Some of the prior art patents relied upon by the Examiner such as the Wang et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,722,877 do not show

pivotal actuating members. Other cited patents such as the Jon and Hsu patents do not describe the pivotal actuating member of the present invention particularly as now defined in claim 10. This includes an actuating member that has one arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position and another arm for contacting the ignition source. This feature is not found in the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. The prior art does not show the claimed feature of a pivotal actuating member with the recited one and another arms.

The Applicant has also added claims 25-27 to this application. These claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as previously stated. Claim 25 defines the actuating member as well as the pivot for pivotally supporting the actuating member. Claim 25 also defines that when both the ignition button and the safety button are operated, the actuating member is in a first position enabling operation of the ignition button to activate the ignition source, and when only the ignition button is moved toward operation, the actuating member pivots to a second position between the ignition and safety buttons so as to inhibit actuation of the ignition button. Claims 26 and 27 are dependent claims related to claim 25 and should be allowable for the same reasons as stated with regard to claim 25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

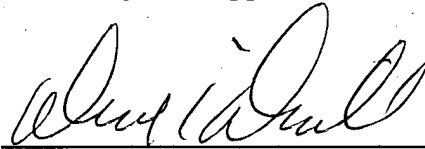
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our deposit account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,
KIM, Jung Tae, Applicant

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By: 
David M. Driscoll, Reg. No. 25,075
Applicant's Attorney
SALTER & MICHAELSON
321 South Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
Telephone: 401/421-3141
Facsimile : 401/861-1953
Customer No. 000987

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